

United States Air Force

B I O G R A P H Y

COLONEL DENNIS M. KAAN

Colonel Dennis M. Kaan is the Commander of the 72nd Air Base Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, OK. As commander, he is responsible for a \$120 million operating budget and nearly 2,500 personnel providing base operating and direct operational support to the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, 552nd Air Control Wing, Navy Strategic Communications Wing One, 3rd Combat Communications Group, 507th Air Refueling Wing, and 35 other tenant units including the Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Information Systems Agency, and 38th Engineering Installation Group.

The unit provides engineering support for over \$74 billion in resources while providing services and programs to include: airfield operations; medical/dental care; logistics; personnel; security; communications; and morale, welfare, and recreational support for over 23,700 military and civilian personnel, their dependents and 40,000 retirees in the local area.



The colonel was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program after graduating from Auburn University in 1977 and served in numerous operations and staff positions throughout his career. He has commanded at the flight, squadron, group, and wing level and flown operational missions supporting the Cold War, Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama and Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia following the Gulf War. He also served as the Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Mobility Control Center Operations at the U.S. Transportation Command, and previously as the Commander of the 437th Support Group, Charleston Air Force Base, SC.

The Colonel is a command pilot with over 3,200 flying hours and assumed his current position in July 2001.

EDUCATION:

- 1977 Bachelor of science degree in Aviation Management, Auburn University, Auburn, AL
- 1977 Squadron Officers School, Correspondence
- 1986 Masters degree in Business Administration, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.
- 1986 Air Command and Staff College, Correspondence
- 1991 Naval Command and Staff College, Newport RI
- 1991 Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies, Naval War College
- 1994 Air War College, Seminar
- 1996 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base AL.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. April 1978 - March 1979, student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance Air Force Base OK
2. March 1979 - July 1979, student, KC-135A Combat Crew Training, Castle Air Force Base, CA.
3. July 1979 - April 1981, KC-135A co-pilot, 11th Air Refueling Squadron, Altus Air Force Base OK.

4. April 1981 - February 1982, KC-135A stan/eval co-pilot, 340th Air Refueling Group, Altus Air Force Base OK.
5. February 1982 - July 1982, KC-135A co-pilot, 11th Air Refueling Squadron, Altus Air Force Base OK.
6. July 1982 - February 1983, T-41C instructor pilot, 557th Flying Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.
7. February 1983 - September 1984, T-41C instructor pilot/squadron executive officer, 557th Flying Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.
8. September 1984 - July 1986, T-41C assistant flight commander/flight commander, 557th Flying Training Squadron, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO.
9. July 1986 - December 1987, KC-10A pilot/squadron scheduler, 32nd Air Refueling Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA.
10. August 1987 - May 1989, KC-10A instructor pilot/chief, KC-10A Mission Development, 2nd Bombardment Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA.
11. May 1989 - June 1990, KC-10A instructor pilot/wing executive officer, 2nd Bombardment Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, LA.
12. July 1990 - June 1991, student, College of Naval Command & Staff, Naval War College, Newport R. I.
13. July 1991 - October 1992, chief, Strategic Programs, Legislative Issues Division (Air Force Issues Team), legislative liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
14. October 1992 - August 1993, executive officer to the Under Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
15. August 1993 - July 1995, executive assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington D.C.
16. July 1995 - July 1996, commander, 350th Air Refueling Squadron, McConnell Air Force Base KS.
17. July 1996 - June 1997, student, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.
18. July 1997 - May 1998, chief, Special Technical Operations Branch, US Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL.
19. May 1998 - June 1999, chief, Mobility Control Center Operations, US Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL.
20. June 1999 - July 2001, commander, 437th Support Group, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.
21. July 2001 - Present, commander, 72nd Air Base Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, OK.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Command Pilot

Flight Hours: Over 3200 hours

Aircraft Flown: T-37, T-38, KC-135A, T-41C, KC-10, KC-135R

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters

Joint Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Combat Readiness Medal

National Defense Service Medal

Armed Force Expeditionary Medal
with Star

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

1990 Graduate, LEADERSHIP SHREVEPORT*BOSSIER

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant, 7 Jun 77

Major, 1 Nov 88

First Lieutenant, 7 Jun 80

Lieutenant Colonel, 1 Feb 94

Captain, 7 Dec 81

Colonel, 1 Sep 98

(Current as of Oct 01)